

Illinois law prohibits odometer tampering and requires anyone who sells a motor vehicle to disclose the accuracy of its odometer reading. All sellers of a motor vehicle are subject to the law — private citizens, as well as car dealers.

Odometer Certification

Chapter 625 ILCS 5/3-112.1

Illinois law requires mileage disclosure for all vehicles. Exceptions include: vehicle weight of more than 16,000 pounds; vehicles 10 years old or older; vehicles that are not self-propelled; and vehicles manufactured without an odometer.

Title 49 CFR Pt. 580

As of January 2021, a new federal law requires mileage disclosure for a vehicle 20 years old. The law only applies to model year of 2011 and newer. A vehicle older than 2011 does not require disclosure.

The seller must complete the Certificate of Title that includes the following information:

- Odometer reading at the time of the sale/transfer.
- Date of the sale/transfer.
- Seller’s printed name and signature.
- Purchaser’s printed name, address and signature.

Purchasing from a Dealer

An Illinois licensed vehicle dealer must provide:

- Bill of sale.
- Odometer statement.
- Copy of Illinois Tax Form.

Inspecting the Vehicle

- Make sure odometer progresses properly.
- Check brakes, steering, alignment and acceleration.
- Inspect tires — low-mileage vehicles typically have the original tires.
- Check batteries, hoses, clamps and belts.
- Look for excessive interior wear: seats, floor mats and brake pedal.

Used Car Buying Tips

- Have a qualified mechanic examine the vehicle. This may help avoid unexpected repair costs.
- Never sign blank documents. An unscrupulous dealer may complete the document to his/her benefit only.
- Review the title. The vehicle’s current mileage should be greater than the mileage shown on the title. Alterations or eraser marks invalidate the title. NEVER purchase a vehicle with an altered title. If the dealer does not have the title, do not purchase the vehicle until a title is provided.

What You Should Know

- Make sure the seller’s identification matches the name on the title.
- Check the meeting location to be sure it is a permanent location, not a temporary meeting place.
- Verify the telephone number of the seller. Unlisted numbers are difficult to trace should problems arise with the vehicle.
- Determine the reason the vehicle is being sold: family financial hardship, fast cash, mechanical problems.
- Verify that the issue date on the title coincides with the seller’s reason for disposing of the vehicle.
- Pay attention to the seller’s story. Inconsistencies often indicate illegal sales.
- Compare the vehicle to a similar model from another seller.

Odometer Fraud

Chapter 720 ILCS 5/17-11

Under Illinois law, a person commits odometer fraud when he or she disconnects, resets, or alters the odometer of any used motor vehicle to conceal or change the actual miles driven with the intent to defraud another. A violation of this law is a Class A misdemeanor; a second or subsequent violation results in a Class 4 felony. * Does not apply to legitimate practices of automotive recyclers who recycle used odometers for resale.

IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF ODOMETER FRAUD

- Contact an attorney to discuss your options involving the person responsible for the fraud.
- According to Illinois law (Chapter 625 ILCS 5/3-112.1), a person may be awarded \$1,500 or three times the amount of damages plus court costs and attorney fees in fraud cases.
- Secretary of State Police can investigate a criminal complaint filed against a person accused of fraudulent practices.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

ISSP District #1
103 W. Roosevelt Rd. • Villa Park, IL 60181
630-693-0551

ISSP District #2
595 S. State St. • Elgin, IL 60123
815-484-8100

ISSP District #3
421 E. Capitol Ave. • Springfield, IL 62701
217-785-5486

ISSP District #4
220 S. 12th St. • Mt. Vernon, IL 62864
618-244-8343

ISSP District #4A
400 W. Main St. • Belleville, IL 62220
618-236-8765

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Secretary of State Police

ODOMETER FRAUD

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Illinois Secretary of State